

CRACKLIN' STATIC



SIERRA NEVADA Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Amateur Radio Community since April 16, 1968

<http://www.snars.org>

RENO, NEVADA

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FIELD DAY 2018 SPECIAL EDITION

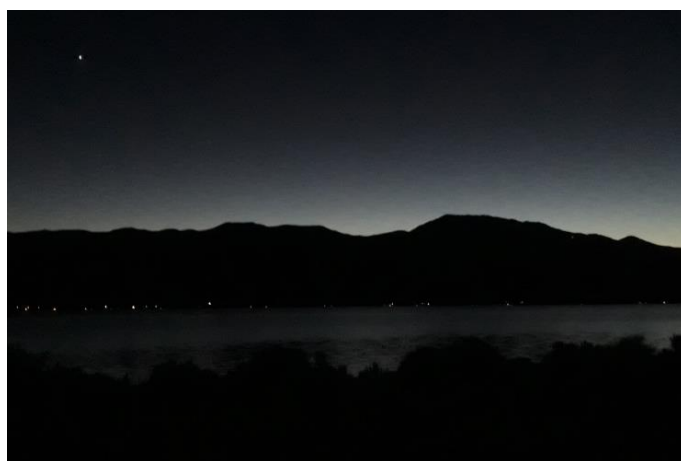
This special Field Day edition of CRACKLIN' STATIC contains no President's Voice, no masthead, no minutes or technical articles, calendars, etc., just the story and photos of SNARS Field Day, 2018, the highs, the lows, and the people who made it happen. No official stuff, just FD! Read on, and enjoy.....73, Howie WB2AWQ

This year, W7TA was located just before the boat ramp at the south end of Washoe Lake, occupying the large pavilion and the surrounding area. This section has a goodly number of decently tall trees (no Lodgepole Pines though...) so we didn't have Jim's Beast, the 100 ft "portable" tower. We made ample use of the trees for hanging antennas. Weather was about perfect for Field Day, with daytime temps in the 80's and low 90s plus the classic Reno non-humidity, overnight in the 60s, and nary a cloud to be seen.

THE SITE



The pavilion as seen looking east toward the Virginia Range. Jim W6US's 6BTV vertical can be seen right of center. Photo KF7KTC



Looking west over the lake at Astronomical Twilight, the time when the sky is dark yet the last vestiges of sunset are still visible. The planet Venus is prominent top left, and if you enlarge the photo you will see it's in the first quarter phase (a half circle). Photo KF7KTC

THE FOOD

Let it never be said that SNARS hams don't eat well on Field Day. Under the watchful eyes of **chef Jon KF7KTC**, all who participated in SNARS Field Day this year were well satiated, with a wide assortment of foodstuffs to keep the operators going. SNARS provided breakfast Saturday and Sunday of sausages and bacon, eggs any way, pancakes, and juice, lunch both days of a variety of cold cuts and breads, chips and fixin's, and a bountiful BBQ dinner Saturday evening at the very modest cost of \$5 if you paid in advance. Visitor were welcomed and fed as well, and in addition to the food, SNARS kept all the operators, setup people, and visitors well hydrated for the high desert. Jon has headed up or been involved in SNARS food at Field Day for a number of years, and brings a skill level commensurate with our great club.



A presentation that belies the paper plate! KF7KTC



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Fresh salads, prepared at the feast..... Photo KF7KTC



Enjoying some of Jon's work.....photo KF7KTC



BBQ tri-tips and chicken..... Photo KF7KTC



Chef Jon.....

Photo KF7KTC

THE SETUP

Without Jim's monster trailered tower, setup this year was pretty simple. The trees provided ample support for the variety of dipoles that were set up. 80 and 40/15 CW were strung between three different trees by the parking lot, giving each an elevation of about 30 ft at minimum. A sloping dipole from one of those as used on 20. A 10 meter inverted vee was also set up, but 10 did not produce any QSOs. On phone, Rob NB6C set up a vertical in the field west of the parking lot, and Peter had a very effective dipole set up directly over the pavilion, at about 40 ft. For digital, Jim set up a Hustler 6BTV multiband vertical which did an admirable job. So, how do you get those antennas up?

There's some good ways to do this: Armstrong method, sling shot, bow and arrow (done that), drone helicopter (done that too), or a spud gun (or potato cannon, air ball gun, etc.). Been using the latter for about 10 years now. Had a big one, but SOMEONE, a former SNARS member who lives in Tahoe borrowed it in 2013 and hasn't returned it. So I built this "suburban" model, not quite as powerful but capable of shooting a tethered weight up and over a tree 70 ft or more high. Untethered, it'll do several hundred feet, but that's not much help.....



Dan KM6CQ setting to shoot a line over a tree with the spud gun..... Dan also ran CW with WB2AWQ and KB2SFS. Photo WB2AWQ



Putting up the 40 meter dipole over the pavilion
Photo KF7KTC



The "suburban" spud gun – compressed air powered, filled by a car jump starter/air compressor pack. The bullet is a copper and brass plumbing fitting, with a length of brightly colored mason line as a leader for easy spotting. Photo WB2AWQ

THE OPERATORS



Jim W6US running digital on 20 meters.....Photo KF7KTC



When not cooking Jon also operated some phone.....Photo KF7KTC



Ken KB2SFS (L) and Howie WB2AWQ (a mild mannered CW operator cleverly disguised as Superman) running CW on various bands.....missing a photo of Dan KM6CQ, who also operated CW. Photo KB2SFS



Peter KE7VSR running 40 phone.....Photo K6ST



W6US going over the digital operation with a visitor Photo K6ST



Rob NB6C handling 20 phone.....Photo KF7KTC



One of the general-use stations set up for either phone or digital.....Photo K6ST



John N7JDM and friend.....Photo K6ST



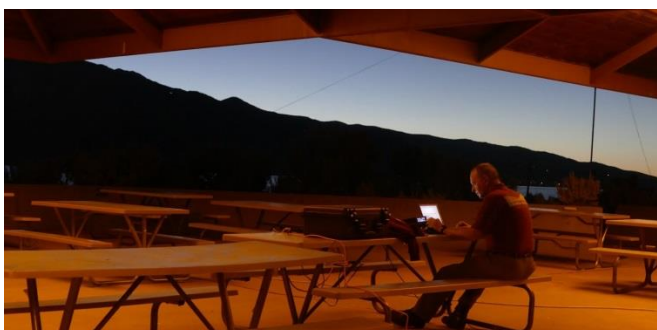
Also for K6ST himself doing phone.....Photo K6ST



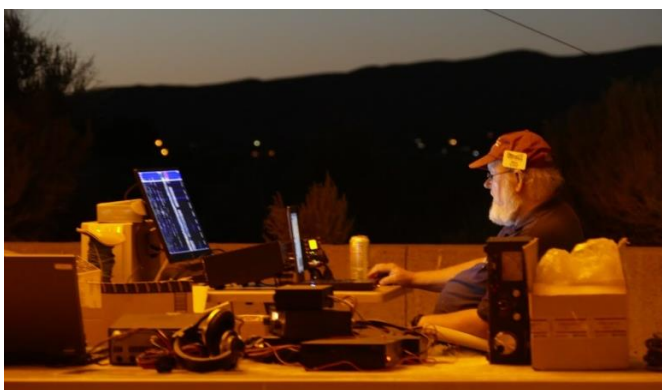
Michael NL7IN (L), Dave KF7EGU (behind Michael, John N7JDM (R).....Photo K6ST



Sometimes you (NB6C) just gotta contemplate.....
Photo K6ST



Dusk brings the hope of good phone operating conditions for KE7VSR.....Photo K6ST



And for W6US on digital.....Photo K6ST

SO HOW'D WE DO?

This is the report submitted to the ARRL by Rob NB6C on behalf of SNARS:

Call Used: W7TA GOTA Station Call: (none)
ARRL/RAC Section: NV Class: 7A

Participants: 20 Club/Group Name:
Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society

Power Source(s): Generator

Power Multiplier: 2X

Bonus Points:

100% Emergency power	700
Public Location	100
Public Information Table	100
W1AW Field Day Message	100
Site Visit by invited served agency official	100
Submitted via the Web	50
Safety officer	100
Total Bonus Points	1,250

Score Summary:

	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSOs	389	95	109	
Total Points	778	190	109	1077
Claimed Score = 2,154				

Submitted by:

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Comments:

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Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)	QSOs	Pwr(W)
160m						
80m	70	150	9	150	29	150
40m	196	150	55	150	56	150
20m	114	150	31	150	24	150
15m	9	150				
10m						
6m						
2m						
1.25						
Other						
Satellite						
GOTA						
TOTAL	389		95		109	

I'd be remiss without some thanks. First, for running the SNARS FD show – Rob NB6C and Jim W6US. Without their persistence and organization there'd be no Field Day for us. Jon KF7KTC kept us all fed and watered, in style. Band Captains: Rob NB6C and Peter KE7VSR doing phone, Jim W6US doing digital, and Howie WB2AWQ, Ken KB2SFS, and Dan KM6CQ keeping the CW portion alive. And photographers Jon KF7KTC, Barry K6ST, Ken KB2SFS, Howie WB2AWQ, and Rob NB6C.

FINIS



No, this isn't some crazy color-enhanced photo of the W7TA operation, this photo was taken Saturday evening of the goings-on just to our south, where rescue teams with boats and a helicopter had been summoned to handle an overturned boat and people dumped in the water. Thankfully no one was seriously injured. This made the local news, and distracted more than a few W7TA ops.....Photo NB6C